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Clerk suffers head injuries in theft attempt

INVESTIGATION A clerk at a west-end 7-Eleven convenience store was taken to hospital with head injuries he suffered during an attempted robbery early yesterday morning.

Around 5:15 a.m. a male and a female entered the store at 1386 Richmond Rd., near the Lincoln Heights Mall, and threatened the clerk with a crow bar.

When the clerk protested, a struggle ensued with both suspects that resulted in the clerk and the female offender both receiving minor head injuries. The suspects then fled the scene on foot empty-handed.

The male suspect is described as white, between 25 and 30 years old, five-foot-six with a slim build and stubble on his face. He was wearing a waist-length jacket with black on the bottom and grey on the top and red lettering on the chest, a black toque and blue jeans. The female suspect was described as around 28 years old, five-foot-six with a slim build. She was wearing a black jacket with brown fur on the hood, a white toque and scarf or bandana, and blue jeans. METRO OTTAWA

Riding the **Recession**

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Workology

- **Got money on your mind? We introduce you to a financial therapist, pg 9**

Comments

- **Anne Hines provides Metro readers with an 'Are you ready for the recession?' questionnaire, pg 5**

This week

- **Health: How to grocery shop on a tighter budget**

Oscars **Cruz'in**

MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

Best supporting actress winner Penelope Cruz, for Vicky Cristina Barcelona, holds her Oscar at the 81st Academy Awards in Hollywood, Calif. More coverage, pgs 11, 12.

Kids' death toll shocks: Advocate

Ninety children known to Ontario's child welfare system died in 2007, according to the latest report from the chief coroner's office — a number the province's new child advocate says is shocking and should trouble us all.

Equally disturbing, says Irwin Elman in his first annual report to the legislature today, is the government's refusal to share detailed information on these deaths with his office.

"These are obviously very critical documents for the understanding of the events leading to the death of the child or youth, and entirely necessary for the work of the Advocacy Office," Elman writes in the report entitled 90 Deaths: Ninety Voices Silenced. "The matter of access to information is one that we will pursue vigorously."

In an interview, Elman, who has worked with youth in the care of Children's Aid Societies in Toronto for more than 20 years, said he had "no idea" so many of these vulnerable children, who were either open cases of the CAS or had died within a year of their files being closed, could perish in a single year in Ontario. Nor did he know that the number of children who have died has been constant since the late 1990s when the Coroner's office began tracking their deaths.

Irwin Elman

When he asked medical officers of health and colleagues in child welfare, they, too, were surprised by the number and urged him to speak out, Elman said.

The 90 deaths in 2007 are recorded as part of the chief coroner's annual Pediatric Death Review Committee report released last June. Most of the deaths were preventable, the committee concluded.

Of the 76 classified deaths, 34 were babies younger than one year old and 24 were youth between the ages of 12 and 18.

In his report, Elman said his office will request legal standing at all inquests into deaths of children in the system and will conduct an independent review of jury recommendations dating back 10 years to determine trends and gaps.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ShareYourViews
ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Local MPP pushes for provincewide Kindness Week

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

SMILE Ottawa's second annual Kindness Week successfully wrapped up yesterday, and plans are already underway to take it provincewide in 2010.

Ottawa Centre MPP Yasir Naqvi made a statement at the start of Kindness Week in Queen's Park encouraging all the other members to celebrate kindness in their communities. While some MPPs seemed skeptical, many others approached Naqvi to learn more.

"What Kindness Week demonstrates is how easy, how simple it is to be kind," he said. "It is a way to illustrate that we should be doing this every single day and it does not take a lot to be kind to our friends, neighbours, seniors or anyone in society."

Naqvi said MPPs would need to bring forward an all-party motion or legislation that is supported by all parties, to have the week after Family Day recognized as Kindness Week in Ontario.

During the week, young people and others tour the city on the Kindness Bus visiting seniors, donating blood, working at a food bank, and giving hugs at the Rideau Centre and on the canal. People can also report acts of kindness on the website.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, chair of the Kindness Week organizing committee, said it would be promoted through the website and the provincial network of the United Way, school boards and workplaces.

The strength of Kindness Week depends on what each city makes of it, but they have not gotten into the details of how it would work in Toronto or Sudbury.

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Ottawa 130 Slater Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6E2. Publisher: Bill McDonald

Audit results revealed Wednesday
Alain Lalonde, the city's auditor general, will table Volume I of audit reports from 2008 to council on Wednesday. Following tabling, the reports will be available on the auditor general's website at www.ottawa.ca. CITY OF OTTAWA

Local

New stadium report going to council

Lansdowne Park and a Kanata site next to Scotiabank Place are ranked sixth and seventh in a report evaluating 23 possible sites for a new stadium that is being tabled at tomorrow's city planning committee meeting. The top two spots were a city-owned site along Bayview Road, including the Tom Brown arena, and a property at Carleton University along Dow's Lake, which received 77.5 out of a possible 95 points in the report compiled by the Corporate Research Group. Comparatively, Lansdowne Park scored 72 points, while the Kanata location scored 70.75 points. METRO OTTAWA

31st Winterlude declared a success

KATHRYN YOUNG
for Metro Ottawa

Ottawa's big winter celebration wrapped up yesterday for the 31st time, with organizers declaring Winterlude a success thanks to good weather, great crowds, new events and the fact all sites were open on Family Day.

"We have reached or overtook our average number of 650,000 revellers," said Julie Rocheleau, spokesperson for the National Capital Commission, which runs the winter festival.

"Each year, our goal is to turn Canada's capital region into the best place to celebrate our nation's winter traditions," said Jean-François Trépanier, NCC's executive vice-president of operations, during the closing ceremonies.

"The thousands of smiling faces that we have seen over the last three weekends are extremely gratifying and a telling sign that the NCC has reached its goal."

Now that the Ice Hogs have ceremonially departed to Canada's far north, Ottawans have to settle in for at least another dreary month of winter.

But two high school students from Brazil, here in Ottawa to learn English, are enjoying their first winter, especially the BeaverTails.

"Cinnamon and sugar is a very good combination — it's very Ottawa," said Manoela Bossle, as her friend Anna Veriato chipped at a block of ice to free a plastic buffalo in the Arctic Ice Dig.

Ten-year-old Armin Farhoudi got a plastic horse for his archeological efforts as his father, Hamid Farhoudi, praised the ice sculptures and aboriginal dancing.

> **"The thousands of smiling faces that we have seen over the last three weekends are extremely gratifying and a telling sign that the NCC has reached its goal."**
> Jean-Francois Trépanier, NCC

One of the more popular new events this year was Ukiuk — a sound and light show with giant images projected onto the Government Conference Centre across the canal from the National Arts Centre. Dazzling lights, pyrotechnic effects and a soundtrack captivated audiences.

The Rideau Canal Skateway — billed as the largest skating rink in the world — remained open for most of the festival. A brief spell of warm weather closed it during the first week, when ice sculptures wore protective blankets to shield them from rain.

But all three weekends had great winter weather and skating conditions were fine.

The canal is currently open from the National Arts Centre to Dows Lake, and will remain open to skaters as long as the weather co-operates.

The NCC has already begun planning for next year's Winterlude, which takes place Feb. 5 to 21, 2010.

KATHRYN YOUNG/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Hamid Farhoudi offers his son, Armin Farhoudi, 10, advice on how to chip a plastic horse out of a block of ice in the Arctic Ice Dig during the final weekend of Winterlude.

News in brief

TRANSIT The first express service of the year to areas of Orléans, Ottawa South, Kanata and Barrhaven are among the 19 routes returning to service starting tomorrow. The 19 routes added at rush hour are: 27, 40, 61, 77, 117, 124, 127, 140, 142, 143, 146, 147, 148, 151, 154, 156, 166, 178 and 182. METRO OTTAWA

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Bill Clinton talks to CNN's Larry King about the stimulus bill, Palestine and BlackBerrys at **metronews.ca/world**

Video Bathurst, N.B. basketball team takes provincial title a year after tragic van crash at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Friday, Feb. 20
Lotto Super 7: 12, 15, 18, 31, 33, 40 & 42 Bonus 1
Saturday, Feb. 21
Lotto 6/49: 11, 20, 33, 34, 37 & 39 Bonus 22
Sunday, Feb. 22
Ontario Pick 3: 4 2 3; **Ontario Pick 4** : 9 0 3 8
Encore: 8441146;
Daily Keno: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 15, 17, 25, 27, 28 29, 33, 37, 43, 49, 50, 51, 53, 64, 65
These results are not official.

Wife's support helped lead to powered flight

KATHRYN YOUNG
for Metro Ottawa

Alexander Graham Bell may have been the ideas man behind the famed Silver Dart, whose 100th anniversary was celebrated yesterday at the Canada Aviation Museum, but his wife, Mabel, provided the money and the prodding to ensure it made aviation history.

"Mabel was the driving force behind me and also she provided $20,000, at the time, of her inheritance from her father's passage and subsequently added another $15,000 to the A.E.A.," said Bell, brought to life by museum guide and part-time actor Jean-Francois LaBrosse. The Aerial Experiment Association backed the development of several early flying machines and ensured the Silver Dart took off from the ice in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, Feb. 23, 1909, piloted by Douglas McCurdy — the first controlled powered flight in Canada.

KATHRYN YOUNG/METRO OTTAWA

Mabel Bell (Marie-Jeanne Chaplain-Corriveau) provided the money and the prodding to ensure that Alexander Graham Bell's inventions became successful. Bell (Jean-Francois LaBrosse) and his wife celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first controlled powered flight in Canada at the Canada Aviation Museum yesterday.

The museum celebrated that aeronautical milestone with storytelling, Celtic fiddling and dancing, special tours, crafts and the chance to sit in a newly crafted Silver Dart half-scale cockpit.

"I love to see all these old planes and how it was all created," said Scott Robinson, as two-year-old son Owen gripped the Silver Dart's controls.

On Wednesday, a new exhibit called Canadian Wings: A Remarkable Century of Flight opens to the public, describing the milestones in Canadian aviation and how it has become such a key part of everyday life as planes transport mail, goods and people, provide jobs and protect Canadians through the air force.

Two teens charged in mugging

CHARGES A couple of teenage girls are facing charges in connection to a mugging that occurred Jan. 19.

Around 4:40 p.m., a woman reported that two females approached her in the area of Fairlea Crescent and stole her purse.

As a result of an investigation into the incident, the Ottawa Police Robbery Section has charged 18-year-old Ashley Ireland of Ottawa and another 16-year-old female with several robbery-related charges.

METRO OTTAWA

Early morning crash sends 3 to hospital

CRASH A 23-year-old female has been charged for running a red light after a two-car collision at the intersection of Scott Street and Island Park Drive in the early yesterday morning. Three people were sent to hospital.

Emergency crews responded at 1:41 a.m.

The 23-year-old was treated for minor head and leg injuries. The occupants of the other car, a 57-year-old male and a 56-year-old female, were both treated by paramedics for minor leg injuries.

METRO OTTAWA

4 treated after early morning fire

BLAZE Four people, including a 13-month-old infant, were treated for smoke inhalation at the scene of an early morning fire at an apartment building near the Experimental Farm yesterday.

Thirty-nine firefighters in 11 vehicles responded to a fire on the second floor of a three-storey apartment building at 1180 Shillington Avenue around 2:45 a.m. after a tenant called 9-1-1.

The fire is believed to have started in the bedroom and extended to the rest of the unit.

Fire crews managed to contain the fire to the one apartment, but smoke and water damage did affect adjacent units.

The entire building was evacuated and an OC Transpo bus provided shelter for displaced persons.

The Salvation Army and the Red Cross assisted with accommodations.

Investigators have not yet determined the cause of the fire, but they do not believe it is suspicious.

The initial damage estimate is $150,000 to the structure and $50,000 to the contents. METRO OTTAWA

Quebec man to be questioned in death of kids
The father of two small children found dead in their home in the Piedmont, Que., will be questioned by investigators as soon as possible, police said yesterday. Police arrived at the home, 60 kilometres northwest of Montreal, Saturday morning and discovered the bodies of a three-year-old girl and five-year-old boy. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Silver Dart flies again

Nearly 1,000 people lined the shores of Nova Scotia's Baddeck Bay yesterday morning to watch a former Canadian astronaut fly a replica of the Silver Dart, a day before the 100th anniversary of the first powered flight in Canada. Bjarni Tryggvason lifted off from the frozen bay in the fragile biplane and flew for about 10 metres before setting down. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Use of health-care system booming

Nearly half of the whopping $76-billion increase in national health-care spending over the past decade is due to accelerated use of the system by all Canadians, says a new report.

Contrary to popular belief, population growth and aging are not the major causes of increased health care spending, according to Value for Money: Making Canadian Health Care Stronger, a discussion paper released today by the Health Council of Canada, a non-profit agency established in 2003 to report on the progress of the Canadian health-care system.

"The fear that the aging population is what's going to cripple the health-care system doesn't actually seem to be all that well-founded," said Dr. Danielle Martin, chair of the council's Value for Money committee who authored the report.

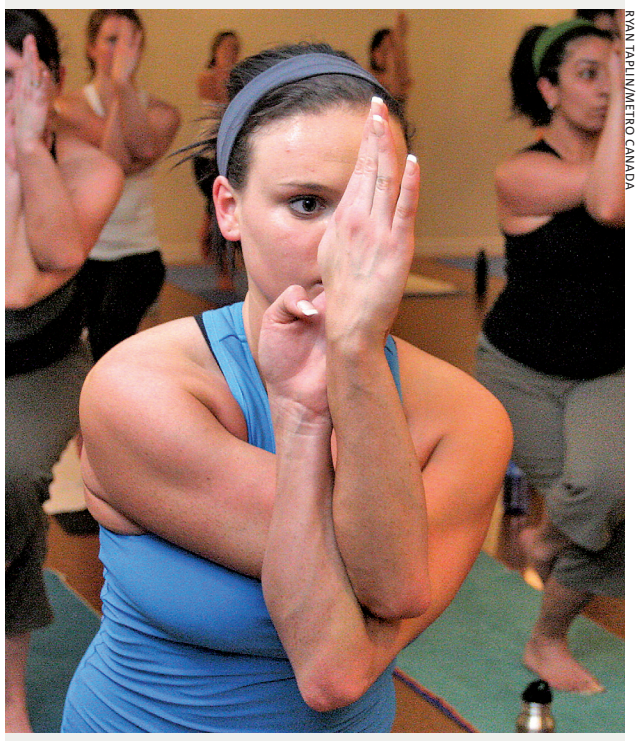
"The frail and the elderly don't use health care as much as we think. In fact, what's going on is Canadians across all age groups are using health care more."

"The frail and the elderly don't use health care as much as we think." Dr. Danielle Martin

Using data compiled by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the council found increases in the use of such services as surgeries, treatments and prescriptions account for 48 per cent of the growth in spending.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Halifax **The power of om**



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO CANADA

Yoga practitioners perform an eagle pose yesterday at a Halifax yoga studio as part of a nationwide Power of Movement event that raised money for arthritis research. About $6,000 was raised in the Nova Scotia capital.

Asian star to testify about nude photos in a Vancouver court

Asian pop star Edison Chen, who fled Hong Kong in disgrace a year ago after nude photos of himself with other celebrities were posted on the Internet, is scheduled to appear in an unusual court hearing today in Vancouver.

After months of silence, Chen, a singer and actor who grew up in Vancouver and is one of Asia's most recognized celebrities, is to testify before a Hong Kong judge and lawyers over the next five days. A Canadian judge and Hong Kong's chief magistrate will be co-commissioners at the hearing as Hong Kong police question Chen.

The hearing is taking place in Vancouver because Chen, 28, refused to return to Hong Kong to give evidence at the trial of computer technician Sze Ho-Chun, who is facing charges of distributing via the Internet pictures of the actor having sex with female celebrities.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

ABUSE Researchers at Montreal's McGill University looking at the brains of suicide victims and said yesterday their findings support theories that childhood abuse can alter the genes and cause lifelong damage. They found clear differences in the brains of people who were abused compared to the brains of those who were not.

HUMAN RIGHTS A Chinese recycling facility that bought thousands of tonnes of paper from Toronto's blue box system has been accused by a human rights organization of labour violations. A followup inspection by Chinese trade unions also reported allegations of dangerous working conditions.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Italy toughens penalties for rape

Italy's government rushed through a decree on Friday toughening penalties for sex offenders and permitting neighbourhood citizen patrols after a spate of rapes blamed on immigrants won publicity and sparked national outrage. REUTERS

World

African bushmeat facing crackdown

U.S. health officials say a steady flow of bushmeat — a staple of some African diets that includes chimpanzee, gorilla, antelope, birds and rodents — is brought illegally into the United States, largely by West and Central African immigrants. Officials say even a small amount of tainted bushmeat could lead to an outbreak of Ebola, monkey pox or other infectious diseases, but immigrants say the dangers are overblown and that a crackdown in New York state smacks of anti-African prejudice. REUTERS

Kashmir **Shooting outrage**

DANISH ISMAIL/REUTERS

A Kashmiri girl shouts slogans during the funeral of Mohammed Amin yesterday in Bumai, Kashmir. Protests erupted in Indian Kashmir yesterday over the killing of two Muslim youth in a shooting incident blamed on the army, police and witnesses said.

Chinese mine blast kills 74

An explosion in a mine belonging to China's biggest coking coal producer killed 74 miners in Shanxi province yesterday and scores more were rescued after being trapped underground for hours.

The Xinhua news agency said 436 miners were working underground when the accident occurred at the Tunlan mine near Taiyuan, the capital of the northern province.

Many of the survivors were quickly brought to the surface but at least 60 were trapped underground. Rescuers said some of the trapped miners managed to contact their families on their cellphones.

Xinhua said 114 miners were in hospital and five were in a critical condition.

"The focus of our effort has shifted from searching and rescue to medical treatment," Xinhua quoted the provincial Communist Party committee chief Zhang Baoshun as saying.

The gas blast happened the day after senior provincial officials held a conference about mine safety when they pledged to try to put an end to fatal mining accidents.

The mine is owned by Shanxi Coking Coal Group, which is the parent of Shenzhen-listed Shanxi Xishan Coal and Electricity Power and Shanghai-listed Shanxi Coking Co. REUTERS

Suspect industry

- China's mining industry is the world's most dangerous, though the Xinhua news agency said the Tunlan mine had a good reputation because no accidents had occurred there in the past decade.

News in brief

SHOOTING An 11-year-old Pennsylvania boy allegedly shot and killed his father's pregnant girlfriend while she was lying in bed, authorities said Saturday. He is being charged as an adult with criminal homicide and criminal homicide of an unborn child. METRO NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON U.S. President Barack Obama on Friday vowed strict oversight of his $787-billion US stimulus plan, pushing back against Republicans who have labelled the centrepiece of his economic agenda fiscally irresponsible.

SOMALIA Islamist insurgents killed 11 Burundi soldiers in Somalia's capital Mogadishu yesterday in the deadliest attack on an African Union peacekeeping force. Fifteen soldiers were also injured. REUTERS

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4 killed in bomb blast in Cairo

EGYPT A bomb thrown into a crowded square killed four people in the Egyptian capital Cairo yesterday, including a French woman and another tourist, officials said.

The explosion, just after dark, struck near the 14th-century Khan el-Khalili market in eastern Cairo, where tourists shop for trinkets and sit at outdoor coffee shops.

Egyptian Health Minister Hatem el-Gabali said a French woman was among the dead and that 17 other people were wounded, including 10 French tourists, one German and three from Saudi Arabia.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. REUTERS

Taliban kidnap official, 6 guards

PAKISTAN Taliban militants kidnapped the top government administrator and six of his guards in Pakistan's northwestern Swat Valley yesterday, the group and officials said. A Taliban spokesperson told Reuters the group plans to free the official after discussing some "issues" with him. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Are you recession ready?

HineSight

Anne Hines

An advantage of working as a writer is that you're never aware that the economy *isn't* in recession. For most members of my profession, being a writer in Canada is about as lucrative as being an actor in Canada or a women's hockey player anywhere.

Still it's impossible to deny that our current economic situation may be going from bad to "Ho boy, that hurts." So for those who did not plan ahead by weaning your family off expensive luxuries such as food and housing, here's a quick questionnaire to test whether you're prepared for what might lie ahead.

Are You Recession-Ready?

1.) Do you see this Metro newspaper as:

a) A convenient, cost-efficient means of accessing news and entertainment?

b) Toilet paper.

2.) When tallying up your saleable assets do you include:

a) Your condo, car and the sorry remains of your stock portfolio.

b) Your vital organs.

3.) In order to balance your household budget, will your strategy be to:

a) Offset rising grocery prices by decreasing wasted food.

b) Offset rising grocery prices by decreasing the squirrel population.

4.) Izaak Walton famously said, "Health is a

Riding the **Recession**

blessing money cannot buy." In your opinion these are the words of:

a) A wise visionary.

b) Someone who never had to live without a prescription drug plan.

5.) Which of these traits do you consider most useful in surviving a recession?

a) Patience, restraint and hope.

b) The ability to chew and digest tree bark.

6.) The best way to save money on your children is by encouraging them to explore the time-honoured traditions of:

a) Simple pleasures.

b) Running away and joining a circus.

7.) If faced with a choice between giving up your VIP cable TV package or selling your mother into white slavery, would your response be:

a) This is outrageous. I love my mother.

b) Does the package include the fishing channel?

8.) For you, the upside of this recession is realizing that:

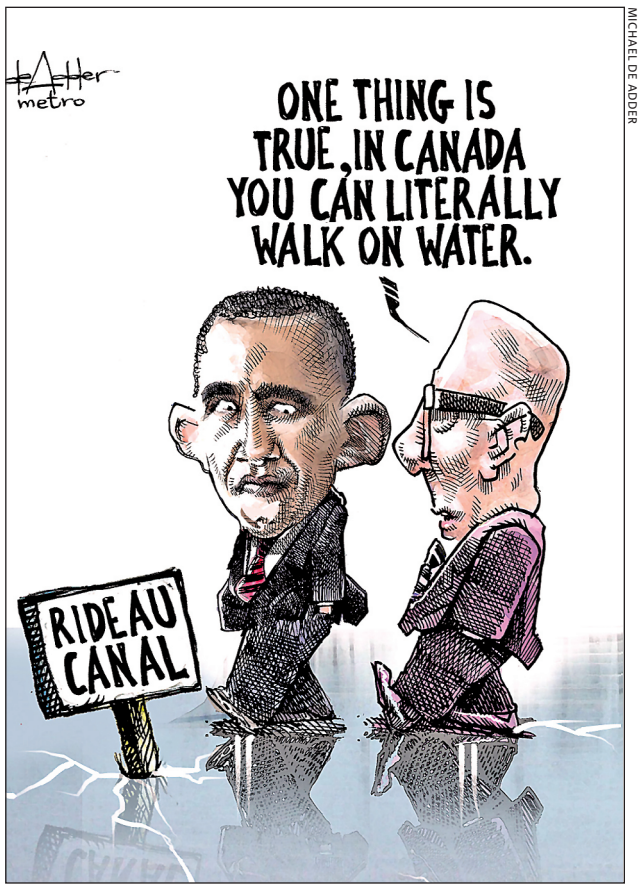
a) What really matters are friends and family.

b) You'll still have something to complain about long after winter is done.

If you answered a) to all or most of these questions, you have as much chance of beating this recession as a Timbits team up against the Calgary Flames.

But, if you answered b) to all or most of these questions, you're recession ready and good to go ... anywhere except the mall.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Metro Online Poll Results

26% SAID YES

Were you taken by President Obama's Canadian charm offensive?

Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca

74% SAID NO

Views

Downtown stadium key to Ottawa MLS bid

InTransit

John Holmes

Since I came to Ottawa, I've never developed much of an affinity for the Ottawa Senators. It's not so much the lame results, more the location of the stadium. I don't associate Scotiabank Place with actually being in Ottawa. I associate it more with driving to Toronto.

As an Englishman, I love the thrill of inner-city soccer stadiums, and the hustle and bustle of match day in the surrounding streets. Twenty-five kilometres from downtown, Scotiabank Place is mind-boggling far away for a sports complex. The parking lots that surrounds it takes away half the fun.

OC Transpo's buses do an excellent job in carrying supporters to Kanata from downtown in less than 30 minutes. But the Senators' home is still notoriously difficult to reach, particularly for people from the east end or the Quebec side of the river. For transit riders needing to take a connecting bus, it's an especially lengthy journey.

Now, Major League Soccer has suggested Ottawa will get a top-flight soccer team, if there is somewhere for them to play. Sens owner Eugene Melnyk is stumping up the $40 million MLS franchise fee. The problem is that he wants to build a soccer-specific stadium next to Scotiabank Place. This brings him in to direct conflict with Jeff Hunt, who wants to bring CFL back to a rebuilt Lansdowne Park. Both projects require public funding, but the city will only back one.

However, the access issues surrounding another Kanata stadium compromise the viability of the MLS option. If hockey represents a gruff masculinity in the Canadian experience, then soccer is starting to represent its diverse multiculturalism. At Toronto FC, Canadians of many backgrounds create a carnival atmosphere at the downtown BMO Field. Anyone who witnessed the FIFA U-20 World Cup at Lansdowne Park knows it's possible to create similar excitement in Ottawa. However, that atmosphere — the supporters' songs, the banging drums, the beeping horns — can only be generated in a real urban setting. It can't be artificially replicated beyond the greenbelt.

It's not a serious option for MLS and CFL teams to share Lansdowne. CFL will damage a soccer field, and with so many cities are bidding for a soccer team, MLS can insist on a soccer-specific stadium.

A downtown stadium, easily accessible by transit, is key to a soccer team's success. LeBreton Flats — in the vicinity of Bayview and LeBreton Transitway stations — would be a good alternative.

John Holmes is a writer for various publications in Canada and the U.K. He's never had a driver's licence, and has relied on public transit for all of his adult life.

Worth Mentioning

Saudi Arabia looking to take on major role in Middle East?

Saudi Arabia is the world's top oil exporter and cradle of Islam, but does not always punch its weight in the Middle East, where Islamist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah enjoy more popular appeal than any Arab government.

Any Saudi aspirations to exert decisive leadership in a fractured Arab world, or even to match the influence of non-Arab powers like Iran, Turkey and Israel, for now remain just that.

"The Saudi challenge is to develop a vision to fill the vacuum in the region, ... and to play a bigger role," said Awadh al-Badi, a scholar at the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies.

Saudi Arabia has striven to insulate its bedrock oil-for-security relationship with America from the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict, tensions arising from al Qaeda's 2001 attacks on U.S. cities, and challenges from the region's Iran-led radical camp.

But this has placed the kingdom in an awkward position.

Prince Turki said Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had recognized Saudi Arabia as leader of the Arab and Muslim world when he urged it recently to lead a jihad against Israel.

"So far, the kingdom has resisted these calls," he wrote, adding that pursuing them would spawn chaos and bloodshed.

"But every day this restraint becomes harder to maintain."

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It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaletters@metronews.ca
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We believe in private banks: U.S.
The White House said Friday it strongly believed in a privately held bank system, "ensuring they are regulated sufficiently by this government." Rumours that the U.S. government could nationalize banks previously sent U.S. bank shares plummeting. **REUTERS**

Business

Manufacturing bleeds jobs

A new study says Canada lost nearly 322,000 manufacturing jobs from 2004 to 2008, in almost all industries. Statistics Canada reports more than 1.5 million jobs were created in the rest of the economy in that period. Only the sectors of transportation equipment (excluding cars), petroleum and coal, and computers and electronics reported increases. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Ottawa

OC Transpo

Transit Service: Phase 2

More buses on the road

Starting Monday, February 23, more buses will be back on the road, making the commute easier for transit riders. Nineteen additional routes will be operating during peak periods.

Transit employees have been making good progress with bus repairs. The next phase of increased bus service will start March 16. Stay tuned for more details in the weeks to come.

We appreciate your continued patience during the transition period and look forward to serving you better.

Increased Bus Service

Rush Hour Service

Starting Monday, February 23, the following routes will operate during peak periods, with the ones in **bold** being new:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, **27**, **40**, **61**, **77**, 85, 86, 87, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 105, 106, 111, 112, 114, 116, **117**, 118, **124**, **127**, 129, 130, 135, 136, 137, **140**, **142**, **143**, 144, 145, **146**, **147**, **148**, **151**, 152, 153, **154**, **156**, 160, 161, 164, 165, **166**, 168, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 176, **178**, **182** and 184.

Express cash and ticket fare premium will not be charged until March 1.

Full Service Off-peak

During off-peak hours — early morning, mid-day, evenings and weekends — all routes that normally operate during these time periods will be running.

Connexion 400 service is running to Senators hockey games and special events at Scotiabank Place.

Schedules and Travel Planning

Travel Planner

For automated schedule information, call **613-560-1000** plus your 4-digit bus stop number. For travel planning, schedules and more, call **613-741-4390** or visit **octranspo.com**.

INFO 613-741-4390
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octranspo.com

Revised Fare Discounts

Special fare discounts continue as outlined below. Offers do not apply to Para Transpo service. Normal fares will resume in March, except for discounts for December pass holders as mentioned below.

FREE service on **February 28**.

FREE service for children 11 and under **until February 28**.

FREE service for **Seniors**, age 65 and older, on **Wednesdays** all year.

Cash and ticket fares will be **half price until February 28**. Customers age 12 and older will pay just $1.50 or one bus ticket per ride.

A **DayPass** purchased on the bus will cost **$3.50 until February 28**.

December 2008 Park & Ride permits will be valid until **March 31, 2009**.

Discounts for December Pass Holders

December 2008 monthly passes, including 2008 Fall Semester passes and 2008 Adult and Senior annual passes will be valid until **February 28, *PLUS:***

✔ All pass holders can get a **60% discount** off their **March** pass in exchange for their December pass. If you plan to take advantage of this offer before the end of February, you will be able to use your new March pass in February to enable you to continue riding the service.

✔ December **Express** and **Rural Express** pass holders (excluding Senior and Community passes) can get additional discounts with coupons for **April** and **May** Express and Rural Express passes at the same price as a **Regular** pass.

Discount coupons for December Express pass holders will be available at all vendors when you purchase your March and April passes.

March passes will be available at all vendors by February 23.

OC Transpo recognizes that these revised fare specials may impact customers who have already received refunds or made fare decisions based on earlier information. Please contact OC Transpo Customer Relations at 613-842-3600 to discuss accommodations for your individual circumstances.

Deadline for Rebates

The deadline for rebates on 2008-09 Annual Student passes is March 31. You can also get a refund cheque by mail if you send in your December pass to OC Transpo, Finance Department, 1500 St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa ON K1G 0Z8. All mail-in refund requests should be sent by February 28.

ECOPASSES

ECOPASS payroll deductions are currently stopped, but ECOPASSES are still valid on OC Transpo and STO buses.

ECOPASS holders will receive the same discount and reimbursements which have been offered to other December pass holders. This discount and reimbursement will be provided by further postponing payroll deductions.

The total discount period, before any deductions resume, will include credit for:

- any amount that you paid after the strike began, plus
  service in February, equal to 10 days of weekday service, plus
  a 60% discount in March, plus
  for Express ECOPASS holders, equal to the monthly express premium which would normally be charged in April and May.

Payroll deductions will resume at the appropriate pay period in April, May or June, based on the date that deductions were stopped by your employer, the extra deduction holiday calculated from the above credits, and the timing of your pay period. For details, please contact your ECOPASS Administrator.

If you have an ECOPASS that expired after November 2008, it will continue to be accepted for a limited time. Please visit an OC Transpo Sales Centre no later than April 30 to pick up a new card.

MasterCard, Visa eye debit market

Two major international credit card companies are poised to enter Canada's debit market, a move that could alter the structure of the payments industry and lead to higher fees for business and consumers.

Both Visa and MasterCard confirm they're interested in offering debit cards in Canada, a market now dominated by the non-profit Interac association, saying their presence would allow overseas use and online purchasing for consumers, and fee flexibility for merchants.

The president of MasterCard Canada says the non-profit's monopoly results in irrational pricing that precludes true market competition.

The fee merchants pay to accept debit cards could rise 300 per cent, said the Retail Council of Canada, at a cost of billions of dollars — a cost that owners would then be forced to pass on to consumers, adds the Canadian Federation of Small Business.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Banks to see profit — for now

EARNINGS Canadian banks are expected to post weaker quarterly results when they kick off their reporting season on Feb. 25 — but are still expected to turn a profit, analysts say.

They add the industry's conservative lending practices, which helped it avoid writedowns and losses, should ensure a profitable first quarter. But they also predict profitability in the first quarter — but that may well deteriorate into 2009 as Canada sinks further into recession. **REUTERS**

In brief

ECONOMY Consumer prices fell 0.3 per cent in January for the fourth monthly decline in a row as the lower costs of buying and leasing cars was only partially offset by higher gas prices. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

BANKRUPTCY There have been a combined 33 Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 bankruptcy filings in the U.S. in 2009, up from 14 at this point last year. **REUTERS**

Jones shoots down T.O. rumours
Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones on Saturday denied an ESPN report that the team is considering releasing receiver Terrell Owens. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Raptors double their pleasure

Andrea Bargnani scored a team-high 28 points and had 10 rebounds, while three other Raptors registered double-doubles as Toronto defeated the New York Knicks 111-100 in the backend of a home-and-home set in Toronto yesterday.

Anthony Parker chipped in with 24 points, while Shawn Marion donated 16 points and 15 boards for the Raptors, who were embarrassed on Friday, dropping a 127-97 decision against the Knicks at Madison Square Garden. Despite snapping a two-game losing skid, Toronto has dropped eight of the last 11 overall.

"Coming off Friday's loss, we watched the film on that, embarrassing is the word that we said a lot," Parker said. "We wanted to come out and set a different tone from the beginning and just let them know that this isn't going to be that kind of night. And I think we did that for the most part."

NBA RESULT

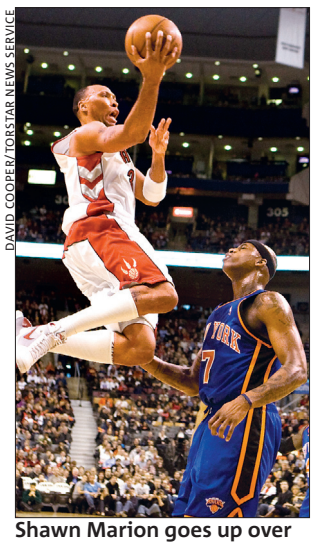
Knicks 100 **Raptors** 111

Jose Calderon had 13 points and 11 assists, and Chris Bosh had a solid game with 11 points to go along with 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who have won nine straight against the Knicks at Air Canada Centre.

In was the first time four Raptors registered double-doubles since a triple-overtime loss against Sacramento on Feb. 23, 2001.

David Lee recorded his 19th straight double-double, contributing 17 points and 15 rebounds for New York. Nate Robinson scored 18 points to go along with eight assists, while Chris Duhon had 17 points and seven helpers in defeat.

METRO NEWS SERVICES


DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Shawn Marion goes up over Al Harrington yesterday.

Penguins' slump continues

NHL RESULT

Penguins 2 **Capitals** 5

WASHINGTON Shaone Morrisonn and Brooks Laich scored goals 25 seconds apart in the second period to break open a tight game, as the Washington Capitals notched a 5-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins in D.C. yesterday.

Morrisonn, Alexander Ovechkin, Sergei Fedorov and Alexander Semin each finished with a goal and an assist for the Capitals, who bounced back from Friday's home setback against Colorado to win for the fourth time in five games. Jose Theodore made 31 saves in the victory.

"They were ticked off and wanted to make amends," Caps head coach Bruce Boudreau said about the team's motivation following Friday's loss. "They know when they play bad and don't want to let that happen often."

Maxime Talbot and Sergei Gonchar each scored for Pittsburgh, which was coming off a pair of 5-4 victories over Philadelphia and Montreal.

The Penguins are just 1-4-2 in their last seven road games, with the lone victory in that span coming Saturday at Philadelphia.

"We played well yesterday and got a big win. We came in here, worked hard today, didn't have some things go our way. We move on," said Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby, who notched an assist. "Four [points this weekend] would've been a success. It's not good to lose, but at the same time we still had some good things that went on."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	OT	P
d-Boston	40	12	8	88
d-Washington	38	17	5	81
d-New Jersey	38	19	3	79
Philadelphia	31	17	9	71
Montreal	31	22	7	69
Florida	30	21	8	68
Buffalo	31	23	6	68
N.Y. Rangers	31	23	7	69
Carolina	31	25	5	67
Pittsburgh	29	26	6	64
Toronto	22	26	12	56
OTTAWA	22	27	9	53
Tampa Bay	20	28	12	52
Atlanta	21	33	6	48
N.Y. Islanders	18	35	6	42

d-division leader

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Carolina 5 Colorado 2
Minnesota 2 Chicago 1
Tampa Bay 4 Boston 3
Washington 5 Pittsburgh 2
Toronto 3 N.Y. Rangers 2 (OT)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT
d-Cleveland	43	11	.796
d-Boston	45	12	.789
d-Orlando	41	14	.745
Atlanta	32	23	.582
Miami	29	26	.527
Detroit	27	27	.500
Philadelphia	27	27	.500
Milwaukee	28	31	.475
Chicago	25	31	.446
New Jersey	24	32	.429
New York	23	32	.418
Indiana	24	34	.414
Charlotte	22	33	.400
Toronto	22	36	.379
Washington	13	43	.232

d-division leader

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 111 New York 100
Boston 128 Phoenix 108
Houston 99 Charlotte 78
Indiana 98 Chicago 91
L.A. Lakers 111 Minnesota 108
Milwaukee 120 Denver 117
Orlando 122 Miami 99
Portland 116 L.A. Clippers 87
Cleveland 99 Detroit 78

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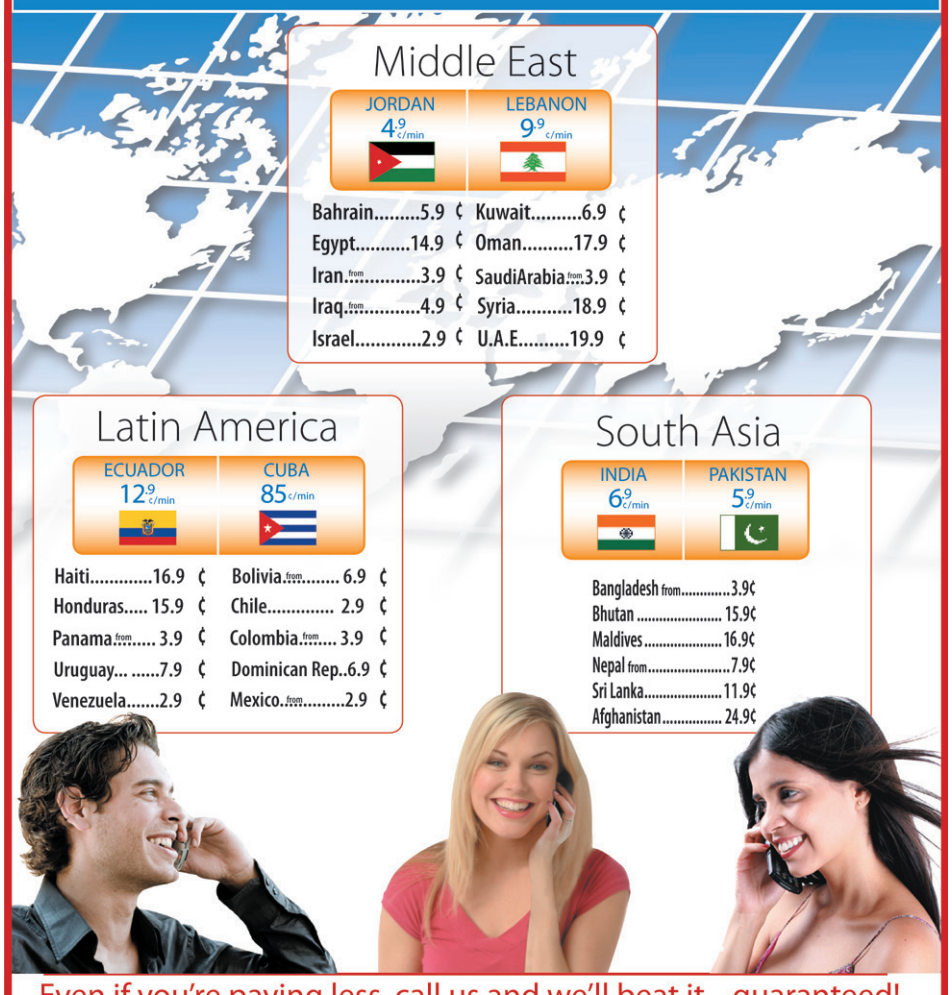

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New fridge can save energy

Replace your fridge with a new Energy Star model. That will save enough energy to light your home for nearly four months, according to Ed Begley Jr.'s Living Like Ed: A Guide to the Eco-Friendly Life. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Going Green

Fine-tune your fridge

Did you know the ideal internal temperature of your fridge is usually between 3 C and 4 C? When your fridge is kept too cold, it wastes energy and can taint your food. To check, place an appliance thermometer in a glass of water on the middle shelf and let it stand for five to eight hours. If the reading is not in the ideal range, adjust the temperature accordingly. DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

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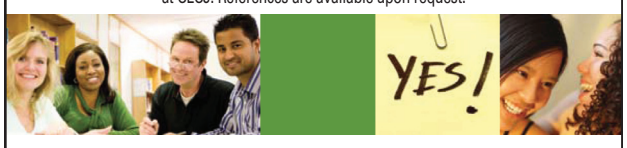

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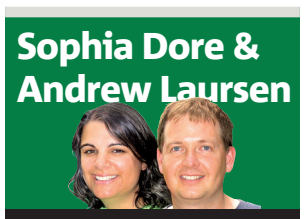


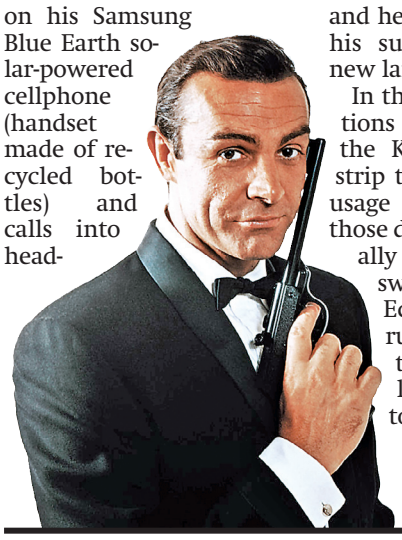
Sophia Dore & Andrew Laursen

earthtones.metro@gmail.com

When gadgets are mentioned, the first image that springs to mind is James Bond. We began to picture a slightly grungier secret agent.

The tuxedo shirt is a little less brilliantly white as Agent double-0-zero (a no emissions agent) forgoes bleach. As the agent jumps into a tricked-out diesel or hybrid car, he punches in co-ordinates to his Econav, which analyzes route options based on car and fuel type, and occupancy, telling our protagonist the best route to minimize carbon emissions.

Double-0-zero switches on his Samsung Blue Earth solar-powered cellphone (handset made of recycled bottles) and calls into headquarters to say he's running late (Econav is taking him on a slower, but less energy intensive route). Suddenly, he spots Dr. No on an electric motorbike (it's good to know even the villains are concerned about the environment) and the chase is on. Dr. No is getting away. Must be that V-Dimension Solar Backpack! He's probably using it to give his bike a bit of a boost. Oh well, thinks 000, leave him to 007.



Sean Connery as James Bond.

Now at work, our agent heads across the lawn, narrowly dodging the Husqvarna Solar Hybrid Automower robot. This triggers something in his memory — the Estonian seductress Nonapussy, who used a vacuum cleaning robot to search his house while she kept him … occupied. Forcing down the memory, double-0-zero springs into action. He grabs two cups of coffee, one for M, from the Tefal Quick Cup (using far less energy than a conventional coffee maker) and heads off to tell her of his suspicions about the new landscaping company.

In the main communications room, they consult the Kill-a-Watt, a power strip that indicates power usage by electronics. Ah, those dinosaur desktops really must be replaced! M switches on a Philips EcoTV (best in class, running on less electricity than a 100W light bulb) and turns to the National to see if there is any word on Nonapussy's whereabouts.

Suddenly, the power goes out! Must be Nonapussy and her minions. Double-0-zero cranks up his Freeplay Energy handcrank radio to hear the end of the news (and truth be told, the lotto picks). M switches on her Dell Latitude D630c laptop to send out an alert. With its low power consumption and long battery life, she should be in business for hours.

Double-0-zero, meanwhile, fires up his new MacBook, with similarly low power use and more recyclable components. This is his choice to cut down on e-waste, plus it has awesome graphics for his gaming.

M's cellphone rings and she learns that Nonapussy is outside the building. Snatching 000 from his Dragon Quest V, they race out the door, down the path lit by glowing LED wind turbines, and capture the elusive spy. The end.

The above is not meant to endorse any specific product, but does point to some interesting gadgets out there for the eco-conscious. Of course, the danger in promoting gadgetry is it perpetuates the myth that technology is going to bail us out. While there are some neat energy-saving gadgets out there, the old credo "reduce, reuse, recycle" applies as much as ever.

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University.

Curb your energy, not your enthusiasm

When you catch a chill, do you reach for the thermostat or a turtleneck? Energy efficiency can be as easy as donning a sweater or changing to a compact fluorescent light bulb. Simple changes can make a difference in your demand for power.

Designed to promote small changes that can help reduce our environmental impact, Future Friendly is a partnership between The Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance, Recycling Council of Ontario, canühome and some of Canada's leading home care brands such as Tide, Bounty, Cascade, Charmin, Downy and Duracell.

Tips

- More tips and information are available online at www.energy-efficiency.org and www.futurefriendly-brands.ca.

"It's about consumer behaviour," says Ken Elsey of the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance. "You can buy an Energy Star-approved furnace, but you should also turn down the thermostat and caulk cracks to stop heat loss."

The following energy conservation tips will keep you enthusiastic about energy efficiency:

1. Hold the hot water

Heating water is one of the home's biggest energy costs. Shorter showers and low-flow shower heads can reduce its use. So can washing laundry in cold water.

2. Get smart about energy use

Your appliances can likely be more efficient. Two easy changes include switching to a high-efficiency washer, and using the energy-saving cycle on your dishwasher. And wait until the dishwasher is full before running it.

3. Buy batteries with enduring energy

Many of our portable devices require batteries. Rechargeable batteries are a great way to power MP3 players and digital cameras.

NEWS CANADA

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Metro Workology exclusive: Matters of the Heart
Don't miss Matters of the Heart, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. There are jobs to be had that focus on falling in love, falling out of love and everything in between; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check for Workology and Metronews.ca/work often.

Workology

'Rant Like Rick'

Memorial University's "Rant Like Rick" student recruitment campaign is back for its third year. The contest asks Grade 11 and 12 students to film their own rant in the style of comedian Rick Mercer. This year's grand prize is worth $10,000 and tuition and books for a year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Got money on your mind?

OddJobs
Diane Peters

Riding the **Recession**

One of Amanda Mills' clients was a successful businesswoman who claimed the only thing missing in her life was a man. And better finances.

After a chat with Mills, however, the woman realized her money was a mess because subconsciously she actually wanted to keep men at a distance.

It's the kind of "Aha!" moment that fills many of Mills' sessions. As one of the few financial therapists in the world, she's able to get clients talking about money and its emotional underpinnings.

Often what they discover leads them to more in-depth psychotherapy — Mills has colleagues that she refers out to. As well, Mills has suggested clients take martial arts classes to help them feel more secure, instead of putting that pressure on money.

Mills did not start out in the financial industry. Originally from Toronto, she did a BA in English at Carleton University in Ottawa, and then moved to Montreal. There, she took a basic accounting course, liked it, and then got a job as a bookkeeper.

As a financial therapist, Amanda Mills tries to pinpoint the emotional underpinnings that her patients have with their money.

She moved back to Toronto and began managing Theatre Passe Muraille, which was two full years of income in debt at the time. She did that challenging job for nearly three years. "I got dismayed that so much time and energy went into cash flow. It was taking time away from the art."

She started up a small accounting firm called Artbooks that aimed to help arts organizations with their finances so they could get past the money and focus on creation.

For 15 years, that company kept her busy. But she started to notice that one client would have $500 in the bank and be stressed, while another with the same amount felt elated. She always kept a box of Kleenex in her office, and it got used a lot.

"That's when I began to see that money isn't about the economy, it's about the feeling," she says.

She'd already taken numerous courses and workshops on various therapy techniques, and helped co-write a book on childhood trauma. So she combined these skills with her financial know-how and launched her financial therapy business Loose Change.

Now, for half the year, she sees clients through Artbooks, specifically to do their taxes. And once taxes are done, she talks with Loose Changes clients about the stress and strain money puts on their lives. (She also runs weekend workshops to talk money, confidence and myths.)

It usually takes about three sessions to find out what's keeping people from coping with their financial issues. "It's a place where people can think clearly about money with no judgment," she says.

And the Kleenex box: It still gets well used.

The **Lowdown**

Job title: Financial therapist
Salary: $180 per session
Education: Combination of training in financial planning training and therapy
Best part of the job: "Connecting with people. There's no façade with me about how much people have or make, so people are emotionally honest."
Worst part of the job: "Seeing the hardship."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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Explorer hits his peak

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

When Tom Avery was a boy, he used to climb the bookshelves and trees that populated his England home. Now, he's conquering unnamed mountains in the Himalayas that no one has ever climbed before.

"It really is like going back to the Victorian era and exploring these places for the very first time," he said on the phone from his London home. "There are tracks of forest that are waiting to be mapped and rivers waiting to be kayaked and navigated for the first time."

Avery, 33, is a professional explorer. Since his teenaged years, he's visited more than 50 countries, completing expeditions in places like the Andes, the Alps, New Zealand, South America, East Africa, Central Asia and the South Pole. In his new book, To the End of the Earth, Avery details his 2005 journey to the North Pole, which made him just the 41st person to reach both Poles.

"You Canadians are used to the cold, far more than us Brits. But let me tell you, -45 C takes some getting used to."
Tom Avery on the North Pole

While travelling the world for a living may sound like an exciting career, Avery said those stricken with such wanderlust as him must be aware of and comfortable with the potential for danger on trips like his North Pole one.

"As soon as you step foot on the Arctic Ocean, the place is basically trying to kill you," he said. Not only did he have to deal with climactic perils like freezing open waters and 60 foot-high walls of ice, but also with bitterly cold North Pole temperatures.

"You Canadians are used to the cold, far more than us Brits. But let me tell you, -45 C takes some getting used to."

You've also got to be used to finding the money to fund expeditions. "It's not all glamorous snow and ice," said Avery. "I've also got to be back here in the U.K. because that's the only time I get to earn a living." Surely Avery's former job as an accountant gives him a fundraising advantage, but he uses channels like giving lectures to business and schools, writing books and working with sponsors to support exploration's financial needs.

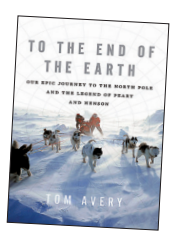
But, if pennilessness prevents you from gallivanting overseas, don't despair. Avery himself said he is envious of just how much of the great outdoors Canada has to offer.

"Canadians are so lucky because you have untamed wilderness in your backyard. There are so many courses available. It doesn't have to be dog sledding to the North Pole. With kayaking, hill walking (and) mountaineering, there's so much to do!"

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Tom Avery is one of only 41 people yet to have journeyed to the North Pole as well as the South Pole on foot.

Check out Tom Avery's book when it hits the shelves on March 17.



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The Pitt-Jolie connection
Taraji P. Henson enjoyed working with Brad Pitt on the Curious Case of Benjamin Button so much, she plans to team up with his partner Angelina Jolie for a film as soon as they can free up some time in their busy schedules. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

Star power
George Clooney has been granted a meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama to discuss the crisis in Darfur. Clooney, a UN messenger of peace, will ask Obama to help end the conflict. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Slumdog sweeps Oscars

Rags-to-riches romance picks up eight awards

Rags-to-riches romance Slumdog Millionaire scooped up eight Oscars on Sunday, the most of any movie this year, including best motion picture.

Among the Slumdog honours, Briton Danny Boyle was named best director for the often dark but ultimately hopeful tale about a poor Indian boy who competes for love and money on a TV game show, and writer Simon Beaufoy won adapted screenplay.

"You've been been so generous to us this evening, and I want to thank you for that," Boyle said to the Academy Award audience when accepting his Academy Award.

Boyle also thanked his family, the film's makers, and the entire city of Mumbai, where Slumdog was shot.

Kate Winslet was named best actress for her dramatic turn as a former Nazi prison guard who involves herself in a love affair with a teenage boy in The Reader. She fought back tears when accepting her trophy and remembered a time as an 8-year-old when she dreamed of winning one of the world's top film award.

Sean Penn earned his second Oscar for best actor, portraying slain gay rights activist Harvey Milk in Milk.

Early honours went to Penelope Cruz who became the first Spanish actress to win an Academy Award for her supporting role in Vicky Cristina Barcelona. Heath Ledger was posthumously named best supporting actor for his villainous role as The Joker in Batman movie The Dark Knight.

But Slumdog was the big winner, also earning Oscars for best cinematography, sound mixing, film editing, original score for composer A.R. Rahman and best song, Jai Ho for Rahman and lyricist Gulzar.

In the night's one big surprise, Japanese movie Departures beat the favorite, Israeli film Waltz With Bashir for foreign language film.

Holding back tears when her award was announced, Cruz thanked Woody Allen, director of Vicky Cristina Barcelona, and Spanish director Pedro Almodovar, who was instrumental in putting her on a track to stardom. She dedicated the Oscar to her family and "everyone who has helped me from the beginning."

The award for Ledger, who died last year of an accidental prescription drug overdose, brought the crowd to its feet. He became only the second actor after Peter Finch to win posthumously.

The Oscar was accepted by his father, Kim Ledger, sister Kate and mother Sally Bell.

"This award tonight would have humbly validated his quiet determination to be truly accepted by you all here, his peers, in an industry he truly loved," Kim Ledger said.

REUTERS

REUTERS PHOTOS

Philippe Petit, right, celebrates after his film Man on Wire won the Oscar for best documentary feature at 81st annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles last night.

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

Winners' list

- Motion Picture: Slumdog Millionaire.
- Actor: Sean Penn, Milk.
- Actress: Kate Winslet, The Reader.
- Supporting Actor: Heath Ledger, The Dark Knight.
- Supporting Actress: Penelope Cruz, Vicky Cristina Barcelona.
- Director: Danny Boyle, Slumdog Millionaire.
- Foreign Film: Departures, Japan.
- Adapted Screenplay: Simon Beaufoy, Slumdog Millionaire.
- Original Screenplay: Dustin Lance Black, "Milk."
- Animated Feature Film: WALL-E.
- Cinematography: Slumdog Millionaire.
- Costume: The Duchess.
- Makeup: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.
- Animated Short Film: La Maison en Petits Cubes.
- Live Action Short Film: Spielzeugland (Toyland).
- Academy Award winners previously announced this season: Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award (Oscar statuette): Jerry Lewis

Danny Boyle received the best director award for Slumdog Millionaire.

AcademyAwards

Chris Alexander

For a no-holds-barred account of how it all went down, read his blog at metronews.ca

Lopez, Anthony throw birthday party for twins

Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony celebrated the first birthday of twins Max and Emme with a party at their Bel Air home on Saturday. About 50 guests, including Nicole Ritchie, Joel Madden and their daughter Harlow, 1, attended the party. **PEOPLE.COM**

Oscar fashion: Hits and misses

The 81st Annual
Academy Awards

RedHotCarpet

Enza Anderson
enza.supermodel.anderson@gmail.com

Which stars wowed audiences with their gorgeous gowns? Which celebrities made the biggest fashion faux pas? Metro columnist Enza Anderson lays out the good, the bad and the ugly of red carpet couture at the 81st annual Academy Awards last night.

HIT Anne Hathaway, left. Finally, someone that knows what glitz and glam are all about. Hathaway makes the stars shine and the red carpet sparkle.

HIT Evan Rachel Wood, right. If Oscar could talk he would be asking for your number. Wood brings soft, sexy and sophisticated to the festivities in a beige chiffon looker. Work it, girlfriend.

BEST Virginia Madsen, left. Lady in red plus blond bombshell equals fabulous. Madsen was the perfect picture in red satin and strapless.

WORST Beyoncé Knowles, left. Beyoncé mixes black with gold flower print. After you finish with the dress my upholsterer needs it to finish some couches.

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

MISS Mickey Rourke, right. Rourke may have played a wrestler in The Wrestler but he certainly couldn't body slam a good suit.

MISS Viola Davis, left. Gold has just been devalued by 50 per cent. Davis shows why gold satin died in the '70s.

HIT Marion Cotillard, above. Drag queens would kill for a dress like this. Cotillard proves big is beautiful with black and blue.

HIT Amy Adams, left. Little red riding hood move over, there's a new diva on the block. Adams certainly knows how to hold court in chiffon and corset.

MISS Miley Cyrus, left. Dressed in full gown and sequins means dressing down. She definitely learned something from her Vanity Fair cover.

MISS Sarah Jessica Parker, above. Fairy godmother headquarters called, you forgot your wand. Parker's strapless bustier and white gown has the making of a Walt Disney classic return of Cinderella.

SAG rejects final offer

NEGOTIATIONS The largest U.S. actors union Saturday rejected a "last, best and final" contract offer from major film and television studios, saying a late demand from their Hollywood bosses was a step backward.

The national governing board of the Screen Actors Guild, which represents some 120,000 actors, voted by nearly 75 per cent to decline the studio deal largely due to a change from producers calling for a new contract start date.

"The (studios') last-minute, surprise demand for a new term of agreement ... is regressive and damaging and clearly signals the employers' unwillingness" to strike a deal, SAG said in a statement.

The studios, which are represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, responded quickly, saying in their own statement, "we simply cannot offer SAG a better deal" than one similar to those agreed to in 2008 by several other Hollywood trade unions.

For now, the two sides appear to be at a stalemate, again, in their long and bitter labour negotiations after the previous labor deal ended on June 30, 2008.

A spokesman for the studios declined to comment beyond their statement and a SAG spokeswoman was not immediately available.

Timing

- The rejection by SAG's board came a day ahead of the glitzy Oscars, the world's top film awards, and is sure to spark more internal discourse among SAG's rank-and-file.

The standoff has kept some film and TV production in limbo, and Hollywood remains concerned about a work stoppage like last year's screenwriters strike that cost the local economy as much as $3 billion by one estimate.

No date for new talks has been set so the stalemate could last for weeks.

REUTERS

Box office

The top five films at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning Feb. 20, according to studio estimates:

1. **Madea Goes to Jail:** $41.1 million US
2. **Taken:** $11.4 million
3. **Coraline:** $11 million
4. **He's Just Not That Into You:** $8.5 million
5. **Slumdog Millionaire:** $8.1 million

REUTERS

In brief

RAZZIES Mike Myers really did lose his mojo in 2008. Myers and his comedy The Love Guru, which won few fans at box offices, were named worst actor and worst picture of 2008 at the Razzie Awards Saturday, one day before the world's top film honors, the Oscars, are given out in Hollywood. The comedy was also given the Razzie for the worst screenplay. Socialite Paris Hilton was the other big winner at the 29th annual Golden Raspberry Awards.

REUTERS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Kenya wraps up New York Fashion Week at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

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PT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
2/23/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Auschwitz:Nazi-Final Solution		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "The Softer Side"		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Heroes "Cold Wars" (N)		News (N)
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	Les Parent	L'Auberge du chien noir (SC)		Les Boys (SC)	Tout sur moi	Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		La Zone
	209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Ghost Whisperer		Medium (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas (N)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	Just for Laughs (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Heroes "Cold Wars" (N)		Medium (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	117	713	10	TVA	Les Gags (SC)	Star Académie:	Annie et ses hommes (N) (SC)		Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	-	-	11	QS	Beauté	C't'une joke	CSI: NY (SC)		La Porte des étoiles (SC)		Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Msr Showbiz
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		L'Empire romain		*Paria* (2001, Drame) Cyril Troley, Gérard Thomassin.				Professionels
	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Old Christine	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Religion
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelor "The Women Tell All" (N)				True Beauty "Finale" (N)		News (N)
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Soup	How I Met	Soup Awards	Worst Week	Snoop Father	Snoop Father	News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	The Bachelor "The Women Tell All" (N)				True Beauty "Finale" (N)		News (N)
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique				Revue	Période-quest.
	651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	House "The Softer Side"		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		News (N)		News
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Steves Europe	Antiques Roadshow (N)		American Experience (N)		History Detectives (N)		Charlie Rose
	205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas (N)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		18 Pregnant Schoolgirls		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27	net	Skiing FIS Ski Cross.		PartyPoker.net World Open IV		Boys to the Bigs		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Interruption	World Series of Poker: Europe		Curling 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts -- Draw 8.			
	410	403	52	SCR	RaceNight				(9:15) WWE Monday Night Raw				Score Tonight
	411	457	56	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	59	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time (N)	This Week in NASCAR (N)		SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65	YTV	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Zixx Level	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	570	580	29	MM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Where You At
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Deviant"		Intervention "Nicole"		Intervention (HDTV) (N)		Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		*Lucky Number Slevin* ★★ (2006, Crime Drama) Josh Hartnett, Ben Kingsley.				
	521	560	34	TLC	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Toddlers & Tiaras		Little People
	145	761	35	TV5	L'Objet du scandale		Vie privée, vie publique "La Revanche des cancres"				Club social		Journal TV5
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Testees	House
	620	523	40	BVO	Hot Dance	7 - Solvents	Shumka's Cinderella		Ex Machina in Russia (N)		The Tunguska Project		Law & Order
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs (N)		Guinea Pig	*Guinea Pigs*	Daily Planet
	575	583	43	CMT	All About	All About	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly
	601	562	45	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Tabatha's Salon Takeover		Project Runway Canada		ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Louis C.K.: Chewed Up		Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Jermaine Dupri: Brutha		The Single: Monica		Platinum House Dru Hill.		Family Guy
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Ambrose Price	Petal Pushers	Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "... In Translation"		Star Trek: Voyager		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53	MTV	The City	City Live After	MTV News	Cribs	The Girls of Hedsor Hall		The City	City Live After	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	News Show	Tube Tales	E News	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Deal-No Deal
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS		Battle 360		Battlefield Mysteries		NCIS		Crime Stories
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies "Heath Ledger"		Les Grands travaux (HDTV)		Dernier combat-Allende		Alliance meurtrière (HDTV)		Paradis perdus
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	May-December	McLeod's Daughters (N)		Twist of Faith	Clergy	Poltergeist
	602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Clean	Kim	Love It or List It		Dollars	Smart Cookies	Maxed Out
	269	350	70	APTN	Notre Peuple "Being Innu"		Terres arct.	Mishkuenita	*Agaguk* ★★ (1993, Aventures) Lou Diamond Phillips, Toshiro Mifune.				
	621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	First Class All the Way		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Food Detective	Road Tasted	Hell's Kitchen		Chef School

critics'corner

Little Mosque on the Prairie
If your husband can't go to a marriage workshop with you, reschedule it for when he can. In "Recipe for Disaster," Amaar schedules a workshop to help couples strengthen their marriages, but Yasir is too busy to attend. So Sarah asks the Rev. Magee to fill in for him, and the two get along famously. 8 PM on 8 CBC

Sophie
Sophie agrees to accompany Rick on a trip to the country to visit his aunt. But once there, she discovers Rick has been telling the home folks a pack of lies. A shopping trip with Robbie leads Judith into a new vice in the new episode "Stolen Kisses." 8:30 PM on 8 CBC

Heroes
Matt holds H.R.G. hostage and forces him to reveal how he got involved with Nathan's government plot to capture people with abilities. Then Matt's findings bring Peter face to face with the Hunter in the new episode "Cold Wars." 9 PM on 9 NBC; 10 PM on 3 GTV

Aiken parts ways with RCA

The rumors started when his likeness was removed from his record's website and now Clay Aiken is setting the record straight: The former American Idol has parted ways with RCA Records, Aiken's rep has confirmed. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Rihanna speaks out after alleged assault

PEOPLE Rihanna spoke out for the first time since allegedly being assaulted by Chris Brown, issuing a statement of thanks to her fans, people.com reports.

"At the request of the authorities, Rihanna is not commenting about the incident involving Chris Brown," says the statement from her rep on Friday. "She wants to assure her fans that she remains strong, is doing well, and deeply appreciates the outpouring of support she has received during this difficult time."

The statement came on her 21st birthday and a day after she was spotted in Los Angeles after spending nearly two weeks in seclusion.

The singer was photographed Thursday heading to an airport the same night a graphic photo reportedly showing her battered face surfaced on the Internet, upsetting her father, who criticized police for their "sloppy work."

Prior to the statement, neither Rihanna nor her representatives had commented since the arrest of Brown, 19, on Feb. 8

On Friday, friends in Rihanna's native Barbados marked her birthday by taking out an ad in the local paper wishing her a happy 21st "amidst all the negativity about Ri Ri. God will continue to bless her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Rourke's tribute to Roberts

PEOPLE Mickey Rourke paid a bizarre tribute to actor pal Eric Roberts at the Independent Spirit Awards — urging filmmakers to give him a chance and cast him in movies, female-first.co.uk reports.

After taking to the stage to collect the best male prize for his role in the Wrestler, Rourke addressed Roberts in the crowd.

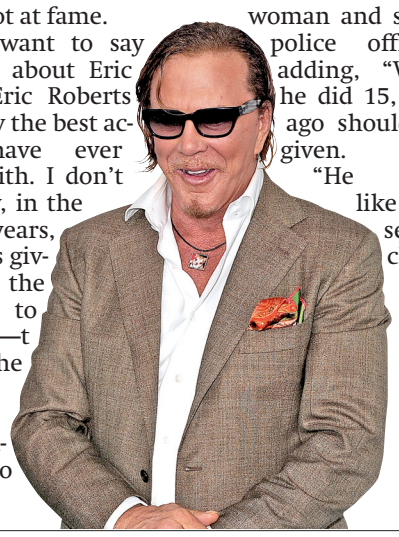
Referring to his own dramatic comeback, he begged directors to give Roberts — his co-star in 1984 movie The Pope of Greenwich Village and 2002's Spun — a similar second shot at fame.

"I just want to say one thing about Eric Roberts. Eric Roberts is probably the best actor I have ever worked with. I don't know why, in the last 15 years, no one has given him the chance to show his s—t again," he said.

Rourke then alluded to Roberts' 1987 arrest for harassing a woman and striking a police officer, by adding, "Whatever he did 15, 20 years ago should be forgiven.

"He deserves, like I got, a second chance."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Hair loss fears

IMAGE Jon Bon Jovi is not a fan of what's been happening to his hairline. The rocker, who sported an impressive mane back in the '80s, has been looking for ways to slow or stop the recession. "Oh, let me tell you, I am so worried," he says, according to Exposay.

"I look at guys like Sting and think, 'Well, he's cool about losing his hair.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Allen's alcohol consumption

PEOPLE Lily Allen is drunk "most of the time," female-first.co.uk reports. The singer claims she is often misrepresented, but not when it comes to her alcohol consumption.

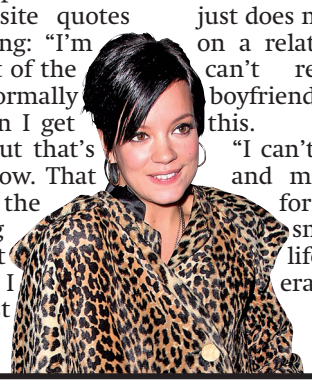
The website quotes her as saying: "I'm drunk most of the time. I'm normally drunk when I get on stage, but that's changing now. That was just the overbearing feeling last time I toured. Just drunkenness."

Allen has also confirmed speculation she is considering quitting the music industry, the website adds.

She said: "I can't live like that for much longer. It just does my head in. Also, on a relationship level, I can't really have a boyfriend when it's like this.

"I can't go to the shop and meet my friends for coffee. The small pleasures in life are completely eradicated."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

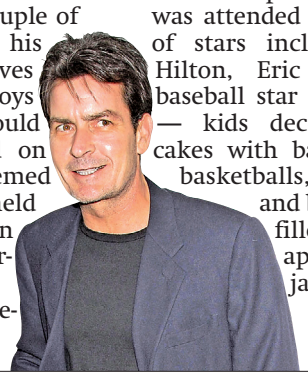


High hopes for twin sons

FAMILY Is Charlie Sheen hoping for a couple of sluggers when his wife, Brooke, gives birth to twin boys in April? It would seem so based on the sports-themed baby shower held for the couple on Saturday afternoon, people.com reports.

At the party — which was attended by a variety of stars including Paris Hilton, Eric Dane and baseball star Barry Bonds — kids decorated cupcakes with baseballs and basketballs, and blue and brown candy filled up apothecary jars.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Woman caller claims to be Brit

MYSTERY A woman claiming to be Britney Spears has been calling an L.A. law firm late at night asking for representation in a bid to break free from her father's control — and some believe it's actually Spears.

E! News reports that they have heard the messages saying Britney is seeking a way to end Jamie Spears' control over her finances.

The first message was left at 1:34 a.m. on Jan. 19.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

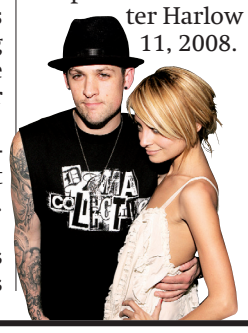
Baby No. 2 for Richie and Madden

BABY With a one-year old and a new baby on the way, Nicole Richie and Joel Madden are going to have their hands full.

In a blog posting on his band's website, the Good Charlotte frontman writes: "What's better than winning an Oscar? I am so happy to tell everyone that Harlow is going to be a big sister! God has truly blessed my family. Hope your (sic) all feeling as good as i am right now."

The happily unmarried couple welcomed daughter Harlow on Jan. 11, 2008.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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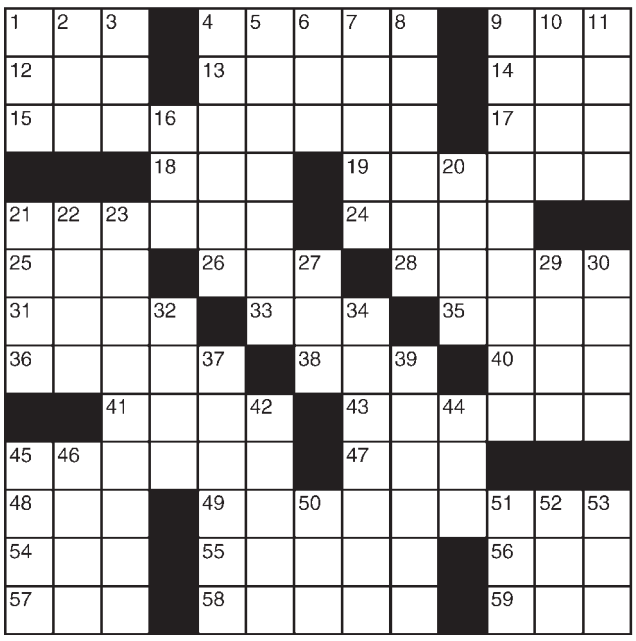

Crossword across

1 "The loneliest number"
4 "Danny Boy" musicmakers
9 Definite article
12 Supporting
13 Lifeless, old-style
14 Tier
15 Happen
17 Gorilla
18 Can. neighbor
19 First game of the season
21 Denim, e.g.
24 Fishing equipment
25 Bobby of hockey
26 Fresh
28 Fleet-related
31 Harvest
33 Legislation
35 Long skirt
36 Forbidden acts
38 Speck
40 Every last bit
41 Totals
43 Multicoloured
45 Stratagem
47 Jackie's second mate
48 Blackjack component
49 Change from one language to another
54 Coffee vessel
55 Greeting
56 Meadow
57 Danson or Kennedy
58 Convinces
59 Vanna's cohort

Crossword down

1 Frequently
2 Neither partner
3 Historic time
4 Relay
5 Put on a jury
6 Hawaiian side dish
7 Mistake
8 Squelch, in a way
9 Pretoria's region
10 Optimist's feeling
11 Basin accessory
16 Pecan or almond
20 Dutch cheese
21 Old, stale jokes
22 Sandwich cookie
23 Exceed
27 Bankroll
29 Wheel holder
30 Easter flower
32 Sulk
34 Feminine
37 Metal workers
39 Human trunks
42 Threaded nail
44 Up to
45 Tense
46 Farm fraction
50 Carte lead-in
51 Matterhorn, for one
52 Afternoon social
53 Have a bite

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			6			8		
1		3		2			6	
5			4			7		
		5		3	9			4
	4						1	
8			2	4		3		
		7			2			8
	3			1		5		7
		9			6			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

O	R	B		R	P	M		P	A	P	E	R		
B	A	A		A	L	I		A	R	R	A	Y		
E	B	B		M	A	N	T	I	C	O	R	E		
A	B	E		S	N	E	E	R						
H	I	S	S		E	R	A		K	I	D	S		
			O	F	T		M	A	N	D	E	L		
A	M	I	N	O				R	O	O	M	Y		
M	A	N	N	E	R		S	E	C					
P	O	N	Y		I	I	I		K	I	N	D		
				M	O	O	L	A		M	O	O		
M	A	N	H	A	T	T	A	N		B	O	W		
A	L	I	A	S		A	G	E		U	S	E		
P	E	L	T	S		S	E	W		E	E	L		

3	8	7	4	5	9	1	2	6
2	6	4	7	1	3	5	9	8
1	9	5	8	6	2	3	4	7
5	3	8	1	9	6	2	7	4
4	1	2	5	7	8	9	6	3
9	7	6	3	2	4	8	5	1
8	2	9	6	3	7	4	1	5
7	4	1	2	8	5	6	3	9
6	5	3	9	4	1	7	8	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Tarragon Chicken with Creamy Vegetables

INGREDIENTS:
1-1/2 lb (750 g) new potatoes, scrubbed
4 large carrots, peeled
4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts (about 5 oz/150 g each)
1 tsp (5 ml) olive oil
1 tbsp (15 ml) lemon juice
1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh tarragon or 2 tsp (10 ml) dried tarragon
3/4 cup (175 ml) light sour cream
2/3 cup (150 ml) diluted salt-reduced chicken stock
1 garlic clove, crushed
4 scallions, finely chopped

METHOD:
1. Put potatoes in a pot of lightly salted boiling water. Bring back to boil, then reduce heat and simmer 7 minutes. Add carrots and simmer 5 minutes. Drain and leave until cool enough to handle.
2. Meanwhile, place chicken breasts in shallow dish. Mix oil, lemon juice and 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh tarragon (or 1 tsp/5 ml dried) with a little salt and pepper. Drizzle over chicken and turn to coat. Cover and set aside to marinate in refrigerator. Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C).
3. Peel and thinly slice potatoes. Thinly slice carrots. Whisk sour cream into stock, then stir in garlic, scallions and half of remaining fresh tarragon or remaining 1 tsp (5 ml) of dried tarragon.
4. Roughly layer potatoes and carrots alternately in lightly greased, shallow ovenproof dish, spooning a little sour cream mixture over each layer. Finish with potato slices covered in remaining sour cream mixture. Cover dish with foil. Bake 35–40 minutes.
5. Arrange chicken on top of potatoes and re-cover with foil. Bake for 25–30 minutes until chicken is cooked through (the juices will run clear when chicken is pierced with a skewer). Scatter over the remaining tarragon.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Avoid bearing the brunt of sarcasm. Someone hammers away at a brilliant person's flaws. Get an update on a jittery situation from scowling people.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A belligerent call changes your life. Be aware of your motivations when over-eating. Your stubbornness causes the critical washout of a good plan.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Take cover when a woman makes insinuations. An annoying friend helps you fulfill your ambitions. Ask a care-giver to devise a temporary solution.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A ringleader commits a foolish act. It's a good time to put a collection in a safe place. Strange adventures will transform your life.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Your moodiness melts away if you ask for a massage. A friend calls to complain about unfairness. A self-conscious buddy might make a tragic mistake.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Unpredictable energy could lead to an exotic fling. Paranoid rumours leave people exhausted. A friend's mental haze will be hard to break through.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Don't send mixed messages. Someone's bizarre choice of amusements will be confusing. A storage area is the setting for a complicated incident.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Help someone to make a satisfying deal. An inattentive dimwit won't understand an insult. Avoid any unreasonable people who try to alarm you.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
All is not what it seems. There's an unexpected arrival when somebody takes a walk. Don't worry; good luck is flowing in your direction.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
An unhappy friend has issues with a nice-looking guy. Explaining weariness can be more fun than expected. A freeloader has boundary issues.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Resist over-indulging to soothe sad feelings. Don't search for a way to win in a crisis. Keep the secrets of your love life to yourself.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A coveted prize unexpectedly comes your way. A marriage ends in confusion. A cunning person will cause someone to fall out of favour.

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